

Remarks

In the Office Action dated April 20, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 39-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over European Patent Document EP937533A1 in view of Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of the U.S. Patent to Hokodate, et al. 6,353,203.

By this Amendment, Applicants' Attorney has amended the pending independent claim of the application to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, independent claim 39 has been amended to make it clear that the imaged article has a circuit feature offset from the laser marking beam location and which is suitable for detection with an optical sensor to obtain an image. Also, the steps of generating, directing and focusing a laser beam are performed after the step of setting to produce a focused laser marking beam.

Clearly, these features are neither taught, disclosed nor discussed by any of the references of record taken either alone or in combination with one another. For example, the European Patent Document discloses the use of an optical sensor to detect the breakthrough of a pulsed laser beam to monitor light emitted from a cutting zone. This is contrary to the invention as now claimed wherein the feature is a circuit feature which is offset from the laser marking beam location. In other words, the European Patent Document discloses the use of an optical sensor which monitors light emitted from the cutting zone during cutting. This is contrary to the teachings of the present invention wherein imaging occurs prior to marking.

Neither the AAPA nor the U.S. Patent to Hokodate, et al. cure the deficiencies of the European Patent Document in this regard.

Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicants' Attorney respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested.

S/N: 10/617,940
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2006

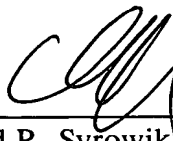
Atty Dkt No. GSIL 0117 PUSA 1

A check in the amount of \$450.00 is enclosed to cover the Petition fee. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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